

# A Guide to African International Organizations

Richard Fredland



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## FOREWORD

This volume serves two purposes. First, it is a compilation of about 400 *intergovernmental* organizations which have existed and do still exist in Africa. Second, it offers a commentary about the institution of African international organizations and evaluates several of the major extant or recent organizations. This is essentially a reference work which will further one's tracing the political activities of African states particularly through the dynamics of the independence period.

Every publication suffers from a time lag in reporting evolving reality, and nowhere is this more true than in a field as ephemeral as international organizations among newly-independent states. While acknowledging full responsibility for all that appears, no pretense is made that there are not errors of omission, commission, ignorance, and sorts not predictable. This is akin to a printed image extracted from a film or video; we have captured an impression of reality at one moment in time. The problem is that there are myriad films running simultaneously, and the image captured will not necessarily be of all at the same moment. Another caveat: The tables were prepared by computer; this required certain conventions which are "unconventional" such as the strange date notations in the list of founding dates. It also facilitated the replication of errors many times. These have hopefully been caught and remedied.

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